



- Certain clarifications also get done and the reasoning and aim behind the policy or law gets clarified by the government
- This practise fulfils the objectives of the parliamentary democracy:
  - Basic concept of the parliamentary governance is that it owes a collective responsibility towards the parliament. Question hour obliges the government to be **responsible and accountable**
- It makes the legislation less prone to judicial interventions
  - Lack of parliamentary oversight has been compounded by judicial intervention in many policy issues
  - For example, the government's actions related to the lockdown and the hardships caused to migrants should have been questioned by Parliament. However, this was taken to the Supreme Court, which is not equipped to balance policy options
- The issues that arise with the suspension of question hour, in the wake of COVID19 pandemic:
  - It seems a hindrance to Representative Democracy
    - Question Hour is a manifestation of a representative kind of democracy in operation, in the sense that representation of the people directly questions the government on matters of governance
    - Hence, it becomes the responsibility of the government to answer questions in the house
  - It goes against the ethos of 'Constitutional rights'
    - The right to ask questions, thereby follows from Article 75 of Indian constitution, which states that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the people
    - Collective responsibility also implies that the government shall be accountable to the house which represents the people of this country
    - Hence, the suspension of question hour undermines the principle of parliamentary oversight over executive
  - It might account to Government moving away from accountability
    - The Questions Hour concerns serious and urgent matters and is live telecasted on the national TV.
    - This telecast keeps the masses informed about the Government's response and vision on all important matters of governance. This becomes more important in the current situation when India is battling the pandemic and economic downfall
    - Therefore, by doing away with question hour in this parliamentary session, the government may sidestep on accountability on the above matters